CANADIAN
MOVING PICTURE
DIGEST

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HEY LEO! Wait for us!

(See Inside Cover)

PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

THIS SEASON'S NOT OVER YET!

Just when you think it's humanly impossible for any company to keep up such a hit record in one season, along come a flock more M-G-M hits — and that's not all!

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NEW YORK—Held over 2nd Week, Capitol.
LOS ANGELES—Breaking every record in history of Criterion.

SHIPMATES (*Robert Montgomery*)
Another new one that's making history!
CHICAGO—Great business!
FRISCO—S. R. O. engagement!

STRANGERS MAY KISS (*Norma Shearer*)
Continues to break records everywhere!
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TRADER HORN
Every day this miracle picture piles up new box-office records.

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will be M-G-M exhibitors again in 1931-32!

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

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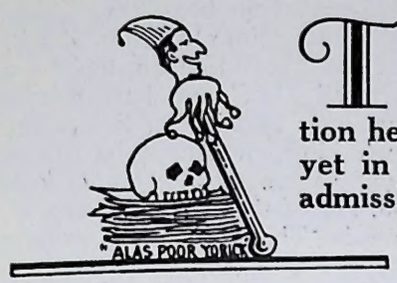
Admitting Defeat



THERE is an announcement to the effect that sixty-two Publix houses will play double features. Publix has always prided itself on having an organization headed by the "best" showmen in Motion Pictures; and yet in the presentation of double features, is there not an admission of a lack of showmanship, or just an example of that quality of showmanship which one meets with anywhere and at any time?

Several years ago, when Motion Pictures was Silent; and the public appeared to be "fed up" with this form of entertainment, double features appeared; and The Digest voiced a vigorous objection, finding in this "double dose" no panacea, or solution of the Showman's problem.

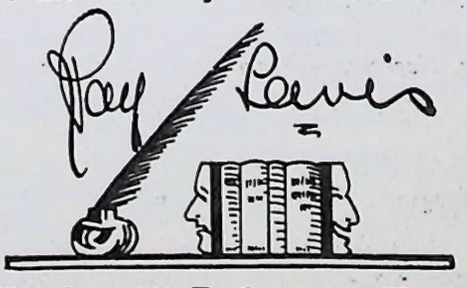
We feel the same way about the situation to-day, only our objections at present are magnified, in that we have no orchestras, no prologue, or atmospheric novelties to help out; and that our Pictures are audible.

To present a double feature bill of Talking Pictures will do more to keep patrons away from the theatre, than to draw them in. Such Showmen are admitting that Talking Pictures are no longer a novelty, that they will not draw attendance; and furthermore, an inability to arrange a program around a Talking Picture which will provide entertainment and novelty. This is what the theatre is in need of, novelty, not double features, which simply repeat the same entertainment twice, with but a slight variation in the theme, and with different players.

If there is something wrong with the appeal of Motion Pictures, why not re-introduce the orchestra, the prologue, a little atmospheric setting, keeping pace with the re-awakened interest in the Drama, which our Showmen should sense; and aside from these angles, step into some of the theatres and take note of the News Reel presentation, the comedy and other Screen Novelties, which some Real Showmen are building around their feature presentation; and you will agree that such Entertainment is worth twice the value of a double feature show, which cheapens the quality standard, and incidentally the price value of both of these features so double-billed.

Double features did not help the Silent Film, it was the Talking Picture which arrived at the eleventh hour to accomplish the Screen's financial salvation.

There is no easier way out than to double feature, but the easiest way is not an indication of showmanship, nor is it always the best way. Take our advice for a change, we are only journalists, but watching the handsprings and somersaults this Industry has been making in the past decade, we have come to the conclusion that a journalist may not be a hero in the eyes of a Showman, but nevertheless the journalists know Show Business and Real Showmen!



Norma Shearer in M-G-M's "Strangers May Kiss" will Bulge the Walls of Loew's, Toronto. It is the "Talk of the Town"

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

THIS has been an unhappy week for The Digest, owing to the passing away of two of our people — David Belasco, that colourful figure in theatrical and moving picture history; and nearer home, the passing of Mrs. Margaret Coral Arthur, wife of Jack Arthur.

David Belasco had enjoyed his three score and ten, his life was complete with fame, honours, achievements. Mrs. Jack Arthur was only past the threshold of her womanhood. Young, beautiful, and imbued with an ambition to see Jack, her husband, succeed in a big way, which he had done in Canada.

But Mrs. Arthur dreamed of other successes for her husband, and for her young daughter, Helen; and for this end, she fought for many years against the ravages, and the devastating torture of a dread affliction, which finally she could not appease, save by giving up her life.

We mortals, never grow accustomed to this sad parting, which is so ancient, that even Adam and Eve felt its pain in the loss of Abel. Our sympathy is with Mr. Jack Arthur, for the loss of a "real pal" as he called his dear wife, for the daughter, who must always remember her companion-mother with the tenderest of memory, and the deepest of regret, to the mother and the sister, who so loved the departed one!

The funeral services were from the home of Mrs. William Bowden Burns, 82 Castle Frank Road, a sister; and the services were conducted by the Rev. W. Hardy Andrews, of the Queen Street East Presbyterian Church. Interment was in Prospect Cemetery.

Representatives from various organizations came to pay their last respects, including representatives from all branches of the theatrical and Motion Picture Industry. The floral tributes made a veritable garden, and occupied so much space in the home, that it was necessary to hold the funeral services in the garden.

The late Mrs. Jack Arthur gave instructions for her funeral, and how she should be dressed for this last ceremony; and these wishes were so faithfully carried out, that all who came, looked upon her, and said, "She is not dead, but sleeping."

The pallbearers were Bert Trestrail, of the Rogers Majestic Corporation; Louis Rosenfeld, Manager of Columbia Pictures; Thomas Braggs, Secretary-Treasurer of Famous Players; Duke Johnston, of the Union Lumber Co.; Gordon Goodman; and Russell Chambers.

THE PASSING away of David Belasco is as much of a loss to the American theatre, as the late Lawrence ("Lol") Solman's death is a loss to the theatrical and sporting world of Canada. Both names are wreathed with Romance as this applies to showmanship. Both men had a vision for what the Public desired by way of Entertainment, and for which they would pay at the box-office.

Belasco put off that grim old Jester, Death, for many years more than did "Lol" Solman, and in our present loss, we again recall "Lol" and have a wistful regret that he could not have remained a little longer with us. However, we who live on cannot be choosers in this matter. Life, our very own, is not ours to keep, but a borrowed period, out of the Eternal Years, in which we harness the Material Things of Life, pounding, moulding, and reshaping these, into star-substance for the Light of our Soul.

"The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God,'" but when we behold the Majesty of Death, despite its Tragic Mask, we are awakened into a questioning of "Whither to?" and "What Road to Eternity?"

David Belasco has had to his credit as a producer, the presentation of many plays. We travel back to the first super-drama, Mrs. Leslie Carter, in "Du Barry," a stage production and a star, under the management and direction of David Belasco, which made stage history.

The Saturday Night, publishes in its story, "The Master Showman, a legend, as it were, "that the father of David, Humphrey Abraham Belasco, an English harlequin, was once elected Mayor of Vancouver." Facts point to the parents of David as coming from England to Canada, and finding a home in Vancouver. David was born in San Francisco in 1854, to which city his father and mother had two years previously gone, when the Gold Rush was the great lure which urged men on to fortune!

In later years, Humphrey Belasco took up his domicile in Victoria, and in this city David received his first theatrical training and inspiration, as a member of the Victoria Theatre.

THESE were real show days, days of "legit" glory; days of the Mansfield, Modjeska, Davenport, Keane, Marlowe, Sothern, Nance O'Neil, Booth, Barrett, and Augustin Daly, Ada Rehan dynasties.

How far away it all seems, when one realizes that it is of the past we speak. Today, we have Norma Shearer, Greta Garbo, Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, etc., etc., and our Hall of Fame of Motion Picture Producers — colour for the modern age of Talking Pictures, Romance from the Silent Screen.

Four hundred plays is said to have totalled Belasco's contribution by way of productions, to the stage, one hundred and fifty plays being directly written for him.

Among his stars, Leslie Carter, Blanche Bates, David Warfield, Lenore Ulrich, E. H. Sothern, Frances Starr, etc., etc.

(Continued on page 9)

The Performing Right Society is called Super-Monopoly by Copyright Committee considering Amendment

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein — A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture, "Trader Horn," with Edwina Booth, Harry Carey and Duncan Renaldo. The setting of the story is laid in the African jungle, and the scenes depicting the wild animals in their native haunts are extremely interesting as well as educational. A missionary woman hears that her daughter, Edwina Booth, who has been taken by the savages when she was a baby, is alive and is called the "White Goddess" of the savage tribes. She sets out to find her and extracts a promise from Trader Horn, Harry Carey, that should anything happen to her that he will go in search of the daughter. He follows her, and finding her body, starts out in quest of the girl, accompanied by his friend's son, Duncan Renaldo. After a great many personal risks they get the girl, and escape with her back to civilization. Edwina Booth falls in love with Duncan Renaldo, and finally reaching the trading post the two young people catch the boat and leave for the continent. It is adapted from the story by Ethelread Lewis, and is directed by W. S. Van Dyke.

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — "Cracked Nuts," co-starring Bert Wheeler and Robert Woolsey. It is the usual Wheeler and Woolsey comedy, full of wisecracks and snappy gags. Bert Wheeler in order to marry the heroine is forced to do something truly great. He buys a revolution in a mythical kingdom, but going there to claim the crown, finds that it resides on the head of his old friend Woolsey, who has won the crown in a crap game, from the previous King. Wheeler is ordered to kill Woolsey, but being soft-hearted cannot do the "fell deed." But the killing must be done! A public holiday is declared, and Woolsey, sitting on the royal throne is to be bombed. He escapes, but one bomb exploding under the throne causes a flood of oil. The populace realizing that it is an oil gusher, and that it will make the principality rich, forget about the assassination and all join in the rejoicing. A First National picture, directed by Edward Cline.

TIVOLI—Manager Jimmy Lynch — George Arliss in the Warner production, "The Millionaire." Arliss is a wealthy man, ordered by the doctors to go out West for his health. Tiring of the quiet life he decides to invest in a business secretly, and becomes half-partner with a young man, David Manners, in a garage. However, as they have been swindled, Arliss borrows money from the bank, and they open a garage opposite to the one owned by the swindler. The garage prospers, and they sell it at a big profit. Meanwhile Manners has met Arliss' daughter, Evalyn Knapp, and he falls in love with her, not knowing that his partner is her father. He opens an office as an architect, and Dorothy and he become engaged, after which Manners learns of the identity of Arliss. Directed by John Adolphi.

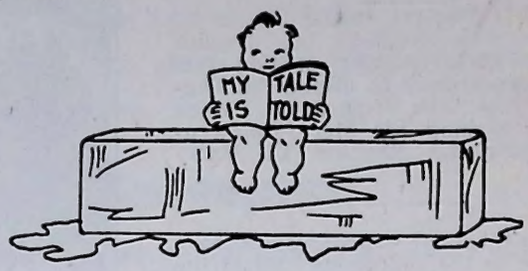
IMPERIAL—Manager H. V. Knevels — "The Iron Man," a Universal production starring Lew Ayres. It is a boxing story. Lew Ayres is the young boxer who is very ungrateful to his manager, Robert Armstrong, and does not realize how good he is to him, until Ayres is beaten badly, and Armstrong forgives him. It is directed by Tod Browning.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — Ben Lyon and Lila Lee in "The Queen of Main Street." It is a First National comedy directed by William Beaudine.

Ray Presents

(Continued from page 4)

But for his half century of contributions, the stage would have been deprived of the Golden Threads, which made the Pattern of a Tapestry, a Pageant of Plays and Players in productions, which might have even inspired a Shakespeare to again exclaim, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." Let the Show go on, for the Drama is Life, the Mirror in which we see ourselves reflected, and in which we intensely sense, that we live!



Manager Joe Franklin of B. F. Keith's, Ottawa, has been spending a week in New York City. Manager Ambrose Nolan of the Avalon also spent several days in Gotham during which he made the ascent of the new Empire State Building.

Mike Wilkes of United Artists Corp. has been almost a permanent visitor in Ottawa for the exploitation of a series of features at the Centre. He put over excellent and extensive work for "The Devil To Pay," and the Centre led the week locally with the high gross. Substantial exploitation was also achieved by Wilkes for "City Lights."

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Round About the Studios

Charley Chase started last week on "The Panic Is On," with Virginia Whiting as his feminine lead and Howard Trusdale as her father. Charley has deserted the soldiers, sailors and hill-billies, and once more resumes his role of the young business man. In this comedy he has joined the ranks of the great army of unemployed. James Parrott will direct.

Although it is decidedly an English language picture, Adolphe Menjou gets plenty of opportunity to display his linguistic ability in "The Great Lover," which he is now making for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, under the direction of Harry Beaumont.

Eight well known screen players have been added to the supporting cast in the RKO Pathe production, "Whoop-Te-Do Kid," starring Eddie Quillan.

Paul Hurst, Luis Alberni and George Kuwa will play Irish, Italian and Chinese bartenders respectively in the Tijuana Cafe sequence. The others are Armand Kaliz, Tyler Brooke, Michael Visaroff, Russ Powell and George Harris.

J. P. Huntley, Jr., has been assigned a role in the Fox film, "Merely Mary Ann." This is Charles Farrell's first picture since he returned from Europe. He is co-starred with Janet Gaynor.

"Daddy Long Legs' has just been finished. Janet Gaynor and Warner Baxter play opposite each other in this Fox production.

Sidney Toler, Broadway stage star, will be Spencer Tracy's teammate in Howard Hughes' air comedy for United Artists, "Ground Hogs." Toler was signed from a field of forty-two candidates for the role of Sergeant Hogan, which the late Louis Wolheim was to play. Incidentally, Hughes has taken a long-term option on Toler's services.

Warner Baxter, as he will appear in his new picture, "The Squawman," for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

"The Other Man," William Powell's first starring picture for Warner Bros., started "shooting" recently at the company's studios in California, with Alfred E. Green directing. The picture has been adapted by J. Grubb Alexander from a stage-play by Roland Pertwee. The complete cast is as follows: Dawltry, William Powell; Rene, Marian Marsh; Phillipa, Doris Kenyon; Mrs. Wey-Smith, Alison Skipworth; Dr. Muir, Frederick Kerr; Wey-Smith, Lumsden Hare; Mrs. Everard, Ethel Griff; Mr. Everard, Arthur Clayton; George March, Louis Calhern; Simpson, Douglas Gerrard; Duckworth, Harrington Reynolds; Reginald, Colin Campbell; Khan, Amar N. Sharma; Ali, Huspin Ansari.

Dorothy Peterson who played the heart-broken mother in "Mothers Cry," is seen in an entirely different characterization in her latest First National picture, "Party Husband," in which Dorothy Mackaill has the starring role. In "Party Husband" Miss Peterson portrays the "other woman." A chance in hairdress only, sufficed to transform Dorothy from a kindly mother to an intriguing vamp.

Barbara Stanwyck, star; Frank Capra, director and Jo Swerling, dialoguer are reunited for the first time since Columbia's "Ladies of Leisure," in the company's road show production, "The Miracle Woman."

Three recent Columbia "discoveries" play important roles in the company's forthcoming production, "Lover Come Back." Constance Cummings, depicts the leading role, while Loretta Sayers, and Susan Fleming are prominent in the support.

As the starring vehicle for Sidney Fox, Carl Laemmle, Jr., last week purchased the talking rights of "Nice Women" by William A. Grew. "Nice Women" was one of last season's Broadway successes. It played at the Longacre Theatre with Robert Warwick and Sylvia Sidney.

The new Marie Dressler-Polly Moran laugh-provoker is called "Politics" and is an original story for the screen. The picture was directed by Charles Riesner, who made both "Caught Short" and "Reducing."

Marion Davies' new starring picture, "Five and Ten," is the seventh picture in which Miss Davies has been directed by Robert Z. Leonard. Leslie Howard, Richard Bennett and Irene Rich supply stellar supporting talent in this new production, based on Fannie Hurst's best selling novel of the same name.

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For 1931-32 RKO PATHE will not only continue the leadership it has acquired, but by adopting the same star system to its comedies that will be in vogue for its features will even outstrip its present enviable record.

Herewith is presented the 1931-32 lineup complete. Read it carefully and compare it with the lineup of any other producer. Then you will admit that here is

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6--The Masquers

Never anything like them. Super-star casts bigger than any features. Marquee names never before in shorts. First release, "Stout Hearts and Willing Hands."

6--Manhattans

Third successive season and three times better than ever before. Big stars, fine stories and produced on as big a scale as super-features.

6--Traveling Salesman

Starring the well known stage comedian John Bartels. Just wait until they see him as the corset salesman. They'll want more and more of them.

6--Jimmy Gleasons

Wise exhibitors want the comedies of this wise-cracking wizard of wit. His two-reelers are simply laugh riots. No other comedies just like them.

6--Benny Rubins

A real marquee name. Bigger and better ropes will be needed to hold back the crowds that will crowd into your theatre to laugh at Benny.

6--Frank McHughs

The comedy high spot of such hits as "The Front Page," "Dawn Patrol" and other sensational hits. For the first time a short subject star.

6--Gold Diggers

Here's a bunch of hot babies out for cold cash. They'll be digging box office admissions from willing victims. Don't pass these up.

6--Mr. Average Man

Featuring the well known comedian, Edgar Kennedy. His comedies are riots of fun as he laughs at and then battles with friend wife with his alibis.

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We make the bold assertion that when British International Pictures Limited's line-up of Feature Pictures for season 1931-32 is made public **it will create a sensation in Canadian moving picture circles.**

The tremendous strides England has made in the production of the better grades of Feature Pictures is common knowledge, but **even the most optimistic booster of British-made photoplays will be surprised when he reads the forthcoming list of Box Office Attractions** which we will offer for the new season.

British International Pictures Limited is fortunate in having on its roster **the outstanding Stars and Directors of the British film industry.** Since the release throughout the Dominion of the famous series of Feature Pictures under the title of "The Imperial Eight" this season some of our stars have become as popular in Canada as they are in the Mother Country.

We are giving you sound advice when we urge you to save dates for our Feature Pictures for season 1931-32.

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL PICTURES LIMITED.